

REMARKS

Claims 1, 15, 17, 21, 22, 23 have been amended. Support for the amendment of Claims 1, 15, 17, 21, 22, 23 appears in the specification at least at paragraphs [0027]-[0038] and in FIGS. 1-2.

New Claims 24-26 have been added. Support for Claims 24-26 appears in the specification at least at paragraphs [0027]-[0038] and in FIGS. 1-2.

Request for Examiner Interview.

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that this Amendment does not place the application in a condition for allowance, Applicant hereby requests an Examiner Interview prior to the issuance of the next communication from the USPTO to expedite prosecution.

The headings below are numbered to correspond with the heading numbering used by the Examiner in the Office Action.

3-4) Claim 22 is directed to statutory subject matter.

The Examiner states:

Claim 22 is not limited to tangible embodiments.
(Office Action, page 2.)

Claim 22 has been amended and now recites:

A computer-program product comprising a **tangible computer-readable storage medium** containing computer program code comprising: ... (Emphasis added.)

Accordingly, Claim 22 is directed to statutory subject matter.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

5) Claims 1-23 are novel over Cragun (2003/0009521).

The Examiner states:

Regarding claims 1, 15, and 21, Cragun teaches
- **defining areas of ownership for users of a computer system** (pars. 19-20);
- receiving a **proposed modification** from a first user of said users, said first user being an owner of said proposed modification, wherein a set of said users are stakeholders in said proposed modification (pars. 21-23) ... (Office Action, page 3, emphasis added.)

The Examiner's statement is respectfully traversed.
Cragun is directed towards a **bookmark** management program to collect and utilize group bookmark lists. Individual users can add bookmarks to the group bookmark list and the group bookmark list is updated to all users in the group.

However, the Examiner has failed to callout where Cragun teaches or suggest "defining areas of ownership for users of a computer system" as asserted by the Examiner.

More particularly, Cragun teaches:

... One or more users at multiple browser sites add **bookmarks** to a particular **co-bookmark list**. The resulting combined list becomes available to all other browser/users in the group. ... (Paragraph [0019], emphasis added.)

For at least the above reasons, Cragun et al. does not teach or suggest:

A method comprising:
defining areas of ownership for users of a computer system, **said areas of ownership comprising areas in which said users have permission to modify security policy configurations;**
receiving a **proposed modification of one or more of said security policy configurations** from a first user of said users, said first user being an owner of said proposed modification, wherein a set of said users are stakeholders in said proposed modification; and receiving decisions from a selected set of said stakeholders on approval of said proposed modification,

as recited in amended Claim 1, emphasis added. Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable over Cragun. Claims 2-14, and new Claims 24-26, which depend from Claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Claims 15, 17, 21, 22, 23 are allowable for reasons similar to Claim 1. Claim 16, which depends from Claim 15, is allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 15. Claims 18-20, which depend from Claim 17, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 17.

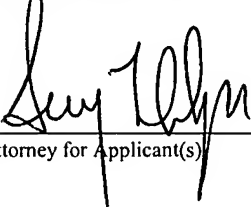
For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion.

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

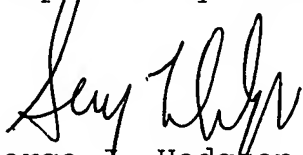
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 30, 2007.



Attorney for Applicant(s)

November 30, 2007
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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